

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on Forests & Forest Health

Witness Testimony

**Testimony on
Oversight Hearing on
Tucson Rod and Gun Club
MARTIN STONE
Before the
House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health
February 12, 1998**

This letter is submitted in connection with the Oversight Hearing on the safety and closure policies for the Tucson Rod and Gun Club (TRGC) firearm shooting range located on public lands managed by the Forest Service on the Coronado National Forest.

From what I can observe, I am the neighboring property owner most directly affected by the activities of the Gun Club. I am in the middle of developing a 240 acre parcel in Rattlesnake and Bird Canyons, immediately to the North of the Gun Club's location in Sabino Canyon. I have created (6) 40 acre lots which are listed for sale at approximately \$1,000,000 each. Two have recently been sold. Two of the remaining four lots are approximately 5/8 to 3/4 miles from the target end of the gun range. The building site for one of the lots is on a direct line with the second target from the Northern end of the range.

If someone visiting the range raises his weapon, he could easily pick off someone in a home built on the site. In fact, the Saguaros beyond the targets are full of bullet holes.

Between the end of the gun range and my building sites, there is an old hiking trail that is littered with the slugs from bullets. As you continue to walk from the end of the gun range to my building sites you will continue to find slugs, though they become far fewer in number.

With regard to the noise from the Gun Club, I have read allegations that beyond the first rise at the end of the gun range you cannot hear the noise from the guns. Such statements are totally false. I lived for two years four rises to the Northwest of the Gun Club and on the weekends it sounded as if there was a war going on in Sabino Canyon. There are large numbers of people living in the development known as "Canyon Plew Estates," located to the Northwest of the Gun Club on "Canyon del Pajaro Road." who will support this statement. I am also certain that surveys made by the forest rangers of people utilizing the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area would also support a conclusion that there was a great deal of noise created by the Gun Club.

Having said all of this I would add that I am not philosophically opposed to the Gun Club. I have a 12 gauge shotgun and a skeet and trap range on my ranch in Lake Placid, New York. Furthermore, I understand the necessity for law enforcement usage of shooting ranges. I am simply concerned with the safety and noise issues associated with the operation of the gun range. If these issues could be satisfactorily addressed, I would have no objection to the Gun Club.

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